

Solutions

Fall 2007

Ribbon Cutting Held For Route 34/72

MoDOT joined with the City of Jackson to commemorate completion of the second phase of the Route 34/72 improvements. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, Sept. 7, at 9:30 a.m.

The Route 34/72 project extends from one mile west of the Route 25 intersection to 2.2 miles west of Route 25, and includes widening and resurfacing. It also includes adding signals, curb and gutter and storm sewer.

The \$7,995,099 million contract was awarded to Penzel Construction Company, Inc., Jackson, last year.



October-Big Month For Route 72 Projects

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will accept bids on three Route 72 projects this October.

① First up is 10 miles of resurfacing and paved shoulders from Route 51 in Bollinger County to the Cape Girardeau County line.

② The next project picks up at the Bollinger/Cape County line east to Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County. The road will be resurfaced and shoulders paved on this more than nine-mile section as well.

③ The final Route 72 project to go before the Commission in October is the first of three phases to relocate Route 72 north of its current location at Fredericktown. The first phase of the bypass includes the construction of a roundabout to offer improved access to

the industrial park. After study, the project team felt a roundabout could provide better traffic flow rather than standard traffic signals.

The Route 72 project is an effort to streamline Route 72 as a key



corridor between Route 67 and I-55. MoDOT is making improvements to the alignment and increasing bridge widths from Fredericktown to Jackson.

“With these improvements and work underway to upgrade Route 67 to four lanes, the existing route in Fredericktown may not be equipped to handle additional traffic,” says Project Manager Tim Richmond. “The bypass project is an effort between MoDOT along with Madison County and the city of Fredericktown to address that concern as well as create a more direct route for truck traffic.”

In addition, the county and city are hoping to improve the economic development potential for undeveloped areas near Route 67.

Bids accepted in October will go before the Commission during its regular meeting in November. If awarded, construction could start next spring.

What Can You Expect From Construction

As part of the construction on Route 72, contractors have been working to tie existing driveways and entrances back into the corridor. We spoke with Resident Engineer Matt Malone to get an idea what property owners could expect.

“Driveway construction is a multi-step process. First, new pipes will be installed,” says Malone. “Then the driveway will be graded in preparation for surfacing. Surfacing will be placed, and then the edges will be backfilled.”

Malone says to make the best use of available equipment and resources, the contractor will perform each step on several driveways at one time.

“That means that a property owner may experience some inconvenience on multiple occasions,” he says.

That inconvenience can include a gravel patch where the pipe was replaced, then a dip where it was dug out for asphalt placement, and then a bump where asphalt was placed but not yet backfilled.

“We ask property owners to remember that it does take several steps and there are many entrances along Route 72. We ask for their patience until this process is completed,” says Malone.

Malone says the addition of a six-foot paved shoulder to Route 72 can also confuse property owners. The added shoulder moves the edge of the paved surface out toward the property owner.

“This may give the impression that the turning radius has been reduced when the asphalt is placed during driveway surfacing. This appearance is deceiving because the white line for the edge of the roadway is six feet from the edge of the asphalt. When a property owner is turning in or out, the asphalt shoulder will be part of their turning surface,” Malone says.



Construction Progresses On Route 72

Construction is currently concentrated between Castor River and the Route 51 Junction at Patton.

“Contractor Iron Mountain Trap Rock is working in this section building embankment for shoulders, shifting some curves



inward to flatten and improve the driveability, and working to resurface the roadway with asphalt,” says Malone.

Work is expected to resume between the Route OO junction at

Fredericktown and Castor River in September. The work in this area will be finishing the embankment and seeding.

The final asphalt surface has been completed between Route OO and Route F. Traffic is no longer on any bypasses as the roadway relo-

cations to reduce curves have been opened to traffic.

Drivers should still expect one-way, flagger controlled work zones and reduced speeds with up to ten-minute delays as shoulder work and asphalt resurfacing takes place.



The Latest On Route 34/72 In Jackson



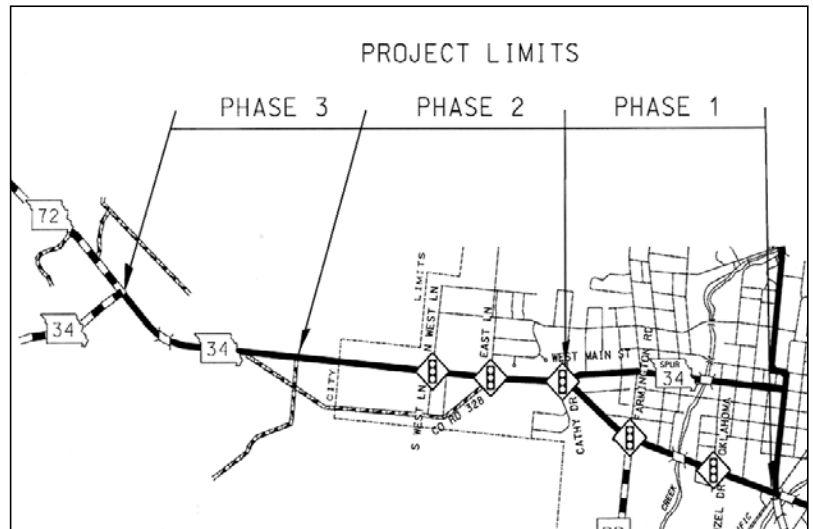
Up Next: Phase 3

With work completed on Phase 2 of the improvement project, only one final portion remains in Jackson. Phase 3 of the improvements means widening and resurfacing the route from just west of Route 34 to 1.3 miles east of Route 34.

"We expect to accept bids for the final phase in early 2008," says Project Manager Eric Krapf.

Krapf says the right of way process is progressing on the final phase.

"We expect to have all the properties by early September," says Krapf. "I know this project has been challenging, but I want to thank the property owners for their patience and cooperation in helping us make a 50 percent reduction in accidents along the corridor."



Saline Creek/Route J Planning Underway

MoDOT is planning on replacing the Saline Creek Bridge located just east of Route J in Madison County sometime in 2009.

As part of the project, the intersection of Route 72 and Route J would also be relocated 200 feet to the west to improve safety.

During construction, traffic would be impacted only minimally with brief, temporary lane closures.

MoDOT advertised for the opportunity to have a public

hearing on the project this summer, and no interest in a meeting was shown.

"We received several calls from property owners excited about in the improvements," says Project Manager Tim Richmond, "but, they weren't necessarily interested in a meeting. They were mainly concerned with making sure that the improvements were going to occur."



Questions On Route 72 Improvements?



Tim Richmond

For information on Route 72 improvements in Madison, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties.

(573) 472-5290 or
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
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Eric Krapf

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